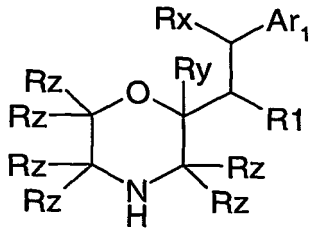
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein,

Rx is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

Ry is H or C1-C4 alkyl;

each Rz group is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl, with the proviso that not more than 3 Rz groups may be C1-C4 alkyl;

R1 is C1-C6 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C3-C6 cycloalkoxy, C1-C4 alkylsulfonyl, cyano, -CO-O(C1-C2 alkyl), -O-CO-(C1-C2 alkyl) and hydroxy); C2-C6 alkenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms); C3-C6 cycloalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; C4-C7 cycloalkylalkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms and/or with 1 substituent selected from C1-C4 alkoxy and hydroxy) wherein one C-C bond within the cycloalkyl moiety is optionally substituted by an O-C, S-C or C=C bond; or $(CH_2)_nAr2$ wherein n is 0 or 1; and

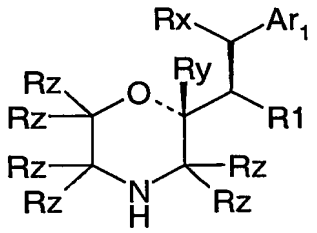
Ar1 and Ar2 are each independently a phenyl ring or a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents (depending upon the number of available substitution positions) each independently selected from C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1,

2 or 3 halogen atoms), -CO-O(C1-C4 alkyl), cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, halo and hydroxy and/or with 1 substituent selected from pyridyl, thiophenyl, phenyl, benzyl and phenoxy each of which is optionally ring-substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), carboxy, nitro, hydroxy, cyano, -NRR, -CONRR, SO_2NRR and SO_2R); and

each R is independently H or C1-C4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 having the configuration of formula (II)



(II)

wherein, Rx, Ry, Rz, R1 and Ar1 are as defined in claim 1;

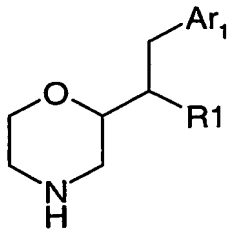
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein Rx is H.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein Ry is H.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein Rz is H.

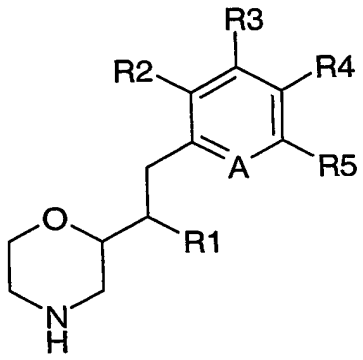
6. A compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein, R1 and Ar1 are as defined in claim 1; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound of formula (IV)

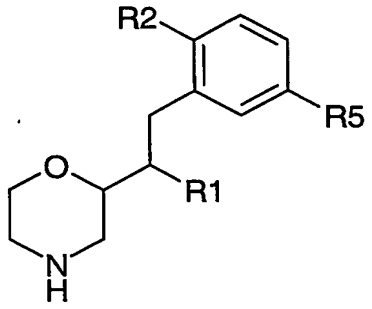


(IV)

wherein,

R1 is $(CH_2)_nAr2$ wherein n is 0 or 1 and Ar2 is a phenyl ring or a pyridyl (preferably 2-pyridyl) ring each of which may be substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), halo and hydroxy; A is N or CR6 (preferably CR6); R2 is C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), halo, hydroxy, pyridyl, thiophenyl, phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halogen, C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), or C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms)) or phenoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms); R3 is H; R4 is H; R5 is H, C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkylthio (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), halo or hydroxy; and R6 (if present) is H; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein,

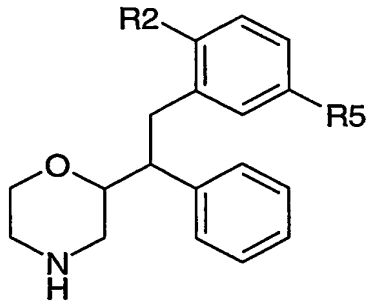
R1 is $(CH_2)_nAr2$ wherein n is 0 and Ar2 is a phenyl ring optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently selected from C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms), halo and hydroxy;

R2 is C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from fluorine and trifluoromethoxy), pyridyl (preferably 3-pyridyl) or phenoxy; and

R5 is H or F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein,

R2 is C1-C4 alkyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), C1-C4 alkoxy (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 fluorine atoms), phenyl (optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from fluorine and trifluoromethoxy), pyridyl (preferably 3-pyridyl) or phenoxy; and

R5 is H or F;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier

11. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 for use in therapy.

12. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use as an inhibitor of the reuptake of norepinephrine.

13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for treating disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

14. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

15. A method for inhibiting the reuptake of norepinephrine in mammals comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. A method for treating disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a

compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.